

Title: DOI/USGS small UAS mission profiles and platform adaptations

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Abstract:

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) National Project Office is helping lead the implementation of UAS technology and data acquisition in anticipation of transforming research and management methods employed across the Department of the Interior. UAS technology is being made available to monitor environmental conditions, respond to natural hazards, understand landscape change rates, recognize the consequences and benefits of land and climate change, support related land management missions and conduct wildlife inventories.

Progress is being made by integrating policies, platforms and sensors and is being tested through many proof-of-concept projects for the USGS and other government agencies. Results from the previous five years of research has shown great potential for the possibilities of using UAS technology and ways exploring much different approaches to acquiring data by governmental agencies, with the overall goal of integrating the technology into a commonly use tool by researchers and land managers.